Rise in drug prices due to new drug policy

*100. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Drug Policy announced in September, 1994 and the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) issued in January, 1995 have resulted not only in a steep rise in drug prices but also failed to bring rationality in the country's drug market;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider setting up of a National Drug Authority with the objective of both decision-making and enforcement with power to root out-banned and irrational drugs from the market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir. To the extent information is available, there has been no steep increase in the drug prices in general. The change in prices as reflected in wholesale price index number (base 1981-82=100) shows that the increase in the prices of medicines since the announcement of 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986' in September, 1994, on a point to point basis has been lower than that for all commodities.

(b) and (c) 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986' already provide, vide para 22.8.1 that a National Drug Authority (NDA) would be set up by an Act of the Parliament, to be steered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This authority will look after the Quality Control aspects, rational use of drugs and related matters. As per available informaiton, action in regard to setting up of NDA has been initiated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Apointment of dean of Laxmibai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior

552. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of present Dean of Laxmibai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIPE) Gwalior, was advertised;

(b) if so, when and if not the reasons therefor;

(c) the manner in which the post was filled and the name, experience and the qaulifications of the person appointed; and

(d) whether the person was qaulified for the post; if not the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) After Laxmibai National College of Physical Education, Gwalior, became the National Institute of Physical Education the Dean of the former is functioning as the head of the Institute. The question of advertisement of the post of Dean, LNIPE, will arise only when the procedure for appointment is finalised.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Free service to agricultural Pump Sets

553. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a danger of non-production of fodgrains in the country, if so, whether there is any proposal to issue free service to all agricultural pump sets throughout the country in order to overcome this danger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): No, Sir.